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GEORGE HALBERT, DECORATOR AND MANUFACTURER.

THERE is no doubt but his long experience as a decorator has been of great value to Mr. George Halbert in his manufacturing business, as it enables him to meet the wants of even the most exacting decorator in the matter of style and quality of goods. In the line of French Appliqué Relief, for which he is justly noted, and the more recently added department of wall papers, the rare artistic qualities and active personal supervision he has brought to bear in their execution, is bringing about its own reward.

Mr. Halbert has for a number of years past been actively engaged in the manufacturing of French Appliqué Relief. In the beginning he produced only sufficient for his own use as a decorator, but as its artistic and practical qualities became widely known, decorators from all over the country were so urgent in their demands that he decided to enlarge his plant and supply the wholesale trade.

In quality of design these productions are unquestionably of great artistic merit, representing as they do the purely classical styles, in strict accordance with the decorative ideas of the hour, those being principally Empire, Rococo, Louis XV. and XVI., in great variety of both simple and elaborate, but withal eminently graceful patterns.

One marked feature of these designs is the ease with which they may be applied, as the forms are pressed onto the canvas while the material is in a moist state, and in this form can with little trouble be applied to walls and ceilings after the manner of pressed paper, and they may then be decorated in colors or bronze, as the taste of the painter may elect, and when finished have the effect of hand modeled plaster.

Ornaments, such as small tulips and pearls, so much used in the Empire and Colonial forms, are now strung on strong threads, and are much easier manipulated than under the old method, when each small piece had to be handled separately. The trade speaks highly of Mr. Halbert's methods, and, in spite of adverse criticism of rival dealers, the practicability of his methods has been proven beyond any manner of doubt. These productions are noteworthy from their great beauty and variety, and the wide scope allowed the decorator for the display of individual taste.

In the wall paper department, of late, the sales have been very large and its capacity taxed to the utmost. Mr. Halbert does not confine his productions alone to the work of his own artists in this line, but is ever on the lookout for new and original designs from other sources. As a result his papers are varied and richer in color and form, noticeably the special stripes in rich reds, blues, yellows, greens and olives, which are very popular and are looked upon by the trade as the best in the market.

In the cheaper grades may be found great variety; and, as he is already engaged in getting out the next season's lines, many fine examples may be expected.

It is wonderful with what rapidity Mr. Halbert has come to the front in this line. And that it is an assured fact is readily demonstrated by his rapidly increasing orders, as day by day new accounts are being opened in his books; and yet, when we stop to consider his long years of practical and artistic experience, it stands to reason they should give added value to these goods.

A novel and markedly successful illustration of Mr. Halbert's business tact is shown in the introduction of complete ready-made color studies for the trade, of which we show a reproduction on this page; these are beautifully executed color drawings, a section of side wall and ceiling, showing the combination of woodwork, relief designs on frieze and ceiling, blending with the wall paper or decorations, and treated in perfect harmony and remarkable faithfulness as to detail. The successful manner in which the relief work may be combined with the painted decorations or wall papers is very aptly illustrated in these sketches as harmony of style and treatment, although entirely different materials may with æsthetic judgment be made to bring about more satisfactory results.

At the exhibit at the Master Painters' Convention of the United States at Buffalo during the past week Mr. Halbert's examples of wall paper and relief work attracted much attention and favorable comment.

